The Gift of Gratitude

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ

Mansoor: Baba, what does it mean to be grateful?

Baba: Being grateful means appreciating the blessings we have and thanking Allah for them. It also means being kind to those who do good for us.

Mansoor: Oh! Like when Mama makes my favorite food, and I say, “Jazakillahu khayran”?

Baba: Exactly! Gratitude makes our hearts happy and strengthens our relationships. But do you know what happens when someone is ungrateful?

Mansoor: What happens, Baba?

Baba: The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ warned us about ingratitude. He said that he saw the Hellfire, and many of its dwellers were women who were ungrateful to their husbands.

Mansoor: Oh no! But why, Baba?

Baba: Because sometimes, people forget the kindness others show them. Even if they receive years of goodness, they focus on one small mistake and say, “I have never received anything good from you.”

Mansoor: That doesn’t sound fair!

Baba: It isn’t, my son. Islam teaches us to be grateful to everyone—our parents, our teachers, our friends. And most importantly, to Allah.

Mansoor: How can I make sure I’m always grateful, Baba?

Baba: By remembering the good things people do for you and saying Alhamdulillah for every blessing. Even if something doesn’t go your way, trust that Allah’s plan is always best.

Mansoor: I will try, Baba! I’ll always say thank you and Alhamdulillah!

Baba: MashaAllah, my dear. A grateful heart is a happy heart.